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Engineering Opportunities In Argentina

By LUIS PERESUTTI, M. E. '23, and JOHN GOLLAN

IN the southern part of South America, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Andes Mountains, lays the great territory occupied by the Argentine Republic. It has an area of approximately 1,180,000 square miles, traversed by large rivers and covered in some parts by an abundant vegetation.

The population of Argentina as given by the last census, was about 13,000,000. Privileged with all the natural resources, it is a land whose immediate development is hampered only by the scarcity of population. The opportunities for development are practically unlimited.

CLIMATE

The climatic conditions make Argentina very desirable for the European and other peoples of the temperate zones. Because of its great extent in latitude, it has a great range of temperature and climate, varying from that of northern Europe and Canada to that of Egypt and Arabia. The climate of southern Patagonia is warmer than that of Labrador, which is at the same distance from the equator in the Northern Hemisphere, but colder than the Atlantic shores of Europe in the same latitude. The intermediate nature of the climate of Patagonia is doubtless due in some measure to the tendency of the colder waters of the Antarctic regions to flow northward through the central part of the Atlantic Ocean, thus driving the warmer water southward along the coast of Brazil and Patagonia.

Rainfall along the coast as in Buenos Aires, due to southern winds and occasional northwest storms, is often very heavy. The climate of Cordoba and also that of some of the more westerly districts is found very suitable for consumptive patients.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIES

The emigration proceeding from Europe in recent years has found in Argentina an appropriate land for the development of their activities.

Argentina Republic has several seaports on the Atlantic coast, but the most important of them is the port of Buenos Aires. The activities of this port can be compared with the biggest in the world, and in the year 1917, more trade was recorded in one month than for any other port of the same size in the world, for the same length of time. Among the river ports may be mentioned Rosario, Sante Fe and Parana, all of them being in direct communication with the Atlantic Ocean. Bahia Blanca on the Atlantic coast is the big naval port of Argentina.

Even though railroads are more developed than in any other country in South America, they only reach a length of 40,000 Kms. or 25,000 miles. The need for more railroads is very apparent.



The Congress Nacional, the Capitol Building of Argentina, located at Buenos Aires.

One of the biggest problems encountered by the government is the maintenance and extension of those lines which fail for the lack of foreign capital. The great natural resources to which the country is heir, cannot be utilized because of the lack of easy communication.

In certain parts of the country, especially in the Northwest, there are silver and gold mines; in other parts there are coal and iron mines that have not yet been developed on a large scale. The coal obtained from the mines of Neugen cannot compare in price to that of Cardiff, as a direct result of poor transportation facilities.

Ten years ago, there was discovered in Comodoro Rivadaira, huge deposits of oil which are now being extensively worked by the government with modern methods.

In the provinces of Cordoba and San Luis are found quarries of marble that compare very favorably with the best of Carrarra (Italy).

The two most important industries of Argentina are agriculture and live stock raising.

Among the agricultural products, Argentina exports more than 6,000,000 tons of wheat annually, in addition to large quantities of hay, corn, and other grains. Argentina, United States and Australia are the leading wheat producers of the world.

The raising of live stock occupies an important place in the industries. An idea of the immensity of this industry is shown by the fact that there are 40,000,000 head of cattle, 10,000,000 of horses and 85,000,000 of sheep. There is quite an important trade in meat products.

Argentina is more advanced industrially than any of the countries of South America, and prides itself in being for South America what the United States is for North America.

WATER POWER

The opportunities for water power development in Argentina are well-nigh unlimited. It is at present practically the only power used especially

in the western part of the country, where the natural conditions and topography facilitates the use of this kind of power.

The available water power that can be obtained from the principal waterfalls (Yguazu) would be enough to supply the whole country with energy. The natural resources of the country are truly vast, and, like all other South American countries,

awaits only men with capital and practical experience to promote their development.

South America offers to the young professional man a broad field of activities in all lines. Most of the manufacturing industries are still in their infancy, and to bring about their development need only the impulse of men of energy, who, working for their own benefit, work also for the good of the country where they have established their industries.

However, it is necessary to correct a few erroneous impressions in regard to South American countries. Some people in the U. S. regard it as a land flowing with milk and honey. It is not a gold mine, but the foreigner will find there enormous sources of energy awaiting development.

The customs of the people he will find are somewhat different, but he will not find a country inhabited by wild people.

In all the countries of South America the North Americans are not only welcome, but are preferred. The chances for good business propositions are too numerous to mention, and the young professional man, especially the young engineer, will find a ready field for his endeavors.



The Ygazu Falls, on the Parana River, between Brazil and Argentine, is bigger than Niagara. This part of the country is very sparsely settled.